

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of claims:

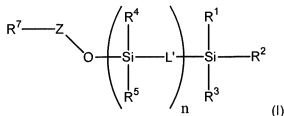
1-50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) A hydrolysable paint composition comprising silylesters of monocarboxylic, sulphonic or phosphoric acid other than rosin as a binder component of the binder system wherein the carboxylic, sulphonic or phosphoric acid part of the organosilyl ester is saturated at the alpha carbon and wherein the composition includes a co-binder and an antifoulant.

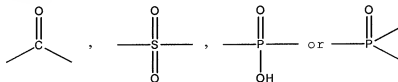
52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented) A paint composition according to claim 51, which comprises a mixture of the said silylesters.

54. (Previously Presented) A paint composition according to claim 51, wherein the organosilyl ester of the acid is represented by the general formula (I):



wherein Z represents:



wherein each R⁴ and R⁵ may be hydroxyl or may be independently selected from alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, -L'-SiR¹R²R³, -L'-(SiR⁴R⁵L')_n-SiR¹R²R³, -L'-SiR¹R²-, -L'-(SiR⁴R⁵L')_n-SiR¹R²-, alkenyl, alkynyl, aralkyl or aralkyloxy radicals optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group comprising alkyl, alkoxy, aralkyl, aralkyloxy, hydroxyl, aryl, aryloxy, halogen, amino (preferably, tertiary amino) or amino alkyl radicals, or R⁴ or R⁵ may independently be an -O-Z-R⁸ group, wherein R⁸ is defined as R⁷ below;

wherein each R^1 , R^2 and R^3 may independently represent hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl or aralkyloxy radical optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group comprising alkyl, alkoxy, aralkyl, aralkyloxy, aryl, aryloxy, halogen, hydroxyl, amino (preferably, tertiary amino) or amino alkyl radicals, or R^1 , R^2 or R^3 may independently be an $-O-Z-R^8$ group,

L' represents O, S, or NR^6 , where R^6 is defined as is R^9 below,

each n independently represents a number of $-Si(R^4)(R^5)-L'$ groups from 0 to 1000,

wherein R^7 is an aralkyl, aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or a C_2 or higher alkyl group optionally substituted, in the case of the hydrocarbyl radicals with one or more substituents selected from the equivalent substituents as defined for R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 above.

55. (Previously Presented) A paint composition according to claim 51, wherein said co-binder is selected from

- (a) Resinates of Ca, Cu or Zn;
- (b) Naphthenates of Ca, Cu, Zn;
- (c) Acrylates;
- (d) Cu/Zn/Ca acrylates or polyesters;
- (e) Tri-organosilyl(meth)acrylates copolymers; and
- (f) Hydrophilic (meth) acrylates

56. (Previously Presented) A paint composition according to claim 51, wherein the binder incorporates poly(silylestere)s or polyfunctional acids to help improve the film forming properties of the binder.

57. (Previously Presented) A paint composition according to claim 51, wherein the binder incorporates abietyl dimers to help improve the film forming properties of the binder.

58-59. (Canceled)

60. (Previously Presented) A hydrolysable antifouling paint composition according to claim 51, wherein said co-binder is selected from tri-organosilyl(meth)acrylate copolymers.

61-66. (Canceled)

67. (Previously Presented) A hydrolysable paint composition according to claim 51, further comprising organosilylesters of rosin.

68. (New) A hydrolysable paint composition comprising silylesters of monocarboxylic, sulphonic or phosphoric acid other than rosin as a binder component of the binder system, the binder system effective to hydrolyse in use to thereby cause release of an active agent into the surrounding environment, wherein the carboxylic, sulphonic or phosphoric acid part of the organosilyl ester is saturated at the alpha carbon and wherein the composition includes a co-binder and an antifoulant.